

is so different from the blind forest of grunting and rooting vitalities that the mere reminder of it is a final criticism of lives which proceed without vision. You have to dissociate your own criticism of Max Eastman from those criticisms that would be the result of enrage. Once you do it, however, you may say that his vision of the war is, like most visions, open to certain objections. To put those objections intelligently is not easy. It is not easy to discriminate against any man who aims at detachment without feeding the base prejudices that pick up every partisan word. But there are too few Max Eastmans in the United States to have his vision of the war presented without venturing one's estimate of it, whatever the risk of pleasing the obtuse.

F. H.

## Inventing a Great Race

*The Passing of the Great Race, by Madison Grant.  
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.00.*

THE people of New York are indebted to the author of this book for much valuable scientific work that has been done by the Zoölogical Garden and the American Museum of Natural History, to both of which institutions he has given much of his time and energy. It is therefore with some reluctance that we express ourselves frankly in regard to his book, "The Passing of the Great Race." The opinions expressed in this book are, however, so dangerous, that the very fact that the author is well known on account of his scientific interest, and that the book is introduced by a man so eminent as President Henry Fairfield Osborn, makes it necessary to expose the fallacies on which it is built up.

The author does not refer to previous writers who have expressed similar opinions; but his book is practically a modern edition of Gobineau, and a reflex of the opinions of Chamberlain. It is a dithyrambic praise of the blond, blue-eyed white and of his achievements; a Cassandric prophecy of all the ills that will befall us on account of the increase of dark-eyed types.

Fortunately, the supposed scientific data on which the author's conclusions are based are dogmatic assumptions which cannot endure criticism. First of all, the whole concept of heredity as held by him is faulty. The hereditary lines that are present in every single race are very diverse. Every race contains excellent strains, a vast number of mediocre strains, and some strains that are subnormal. There is nothing to show that all the blond, blue-eyed, tall individuals present excellent strains; there are mediocre and subnormal types among them just as well as among other races; and the proof has never been given that the relative number of excellent hereditary strains in this race is greater than in others. To speak of hereditary characteristics of a human race as a whole has no meaning. It might perhaps be doubted if this statement were true in regard to extreme types, although personally I strongly incline towards the opinion that it holds true in this case also, but it certainly is true in regard to the variants that compose the European types.

The author, furthermore, has dismissed cavalierly the fundamental problem in how far local types of Europe can be considered as environmentally determined, and in how far they present hereditary traits. Tallness, which the author considers as an important criterion of racial type, is subject to very great variations. We know that, owing to better hygienic conditions, stature has increased consider-

ably in all countries of Europe during the last fifty years; we also know that in England the difference between West End Jew and East End Jew is as great as the difference between almost any two different types of various parts of the Continent. Contrary to the statement of the author (see p. 25), who says that mountaineers all over the world tend to be tall and vigorous, they are, on the whole, of short stature. We have evidence, collected by the writer of this review and by Dr. Aleš Hrdlicka, showing that the transversal diameter of the face is subject to changes due to environment. The observations in regard to modifications of head-form under varying environment are multiplying. In short, there is every reason to believe that, so far as stature and proportions of the body are concerned, the local differences of human types found in Europe are not by any means exclusively hereditary, but also to a great extent environmental, and that the environmental influences are of the same magnitude as the local differences.

No less unsatisfactory is the dogmatic application of Mendelian inheritance to problems of race-mixture. The author assumes naïvely that the various traits which he picks out haphazard are unit characters. Even extreme Mendelians would hesitate to accept this without proof. As a matter of fact, there is not a single case in which we have satisfactory proof of Mendelian inheritance in regard to normal characteristics of the human body. Neither head-form, nor color of hair, nor color of eyes, nor form of face, has ever been proved satisfactorily to be a unit character. Besides, the author does not consider the physiological significance of blondness and of general loss of pigmentation. Many of the characteristics of the white race, as well as racial traits of other races, are those of varieties of an intensely domesticated species, as has been suggested by the writer and more fully by Eugen Fischer.

It would lead us too far to enter into the numerous inconsistencies in the treatment of this subject, which show that the prime interest of the author was to support his theory, or, I think, we might justly say, his prejudice, rather than to reach unbiased conclusions based on observed facts. In some cases he considers the form of the head as of fundamental classificatory value, in others he treats it as irrelevant. Stature is sometimes considered an important dominant feature; then it is the first trait that is likely to vanish in the case of mixture. Notwithstanding his decisive stand against environmental influences, he says on p. 79 that the native American, by the middle of the nineteenth century, was rapidly becoming a distinct type, and was on the point of developing physical peculiarities of his own.

It is a relief to turn from the discussion of racial characteristics to the discussion of the relation between race, language, and nationality. It is so difficult to displace the old ideas of intimate relation between descent, language, and nationality, that we are glad to see that the clear recognition of lack of correlation between these phenomena has penetrated into a popular book. Nevertheless, in the further discussion of human types, the author forgets his own vigorous statements, and falls back repeatedly upon the assumption of identity of race and language, as when he speaks of the introduction of new languages in the British Isles and in Italy.

The dogmatic character of the book does not appear anywhere more clearly than in those cases in which, without the slightest evidence, the presence of North European types is assumed on account of the cultural characteristics of a people. As an example of this may be quoted the following:

"To what extent the Mediterranean race entered into

the blood and civilization of Rome, it is now difficult to say, but the traditions of the Eternal City, its love of organization, of law and military efficiency, as well as the Roman ideals of family life, loyalty, and truth, point clearly to a Nordic rather than to a Mediterranean origin."

Unfortunately, stubborn facts do not lend themselves to such Procrustean treatment. Somehow or other, the author considers the Armenians, who certainly ought not to aspire to greatness because they are merely a dark Alpine type, as the best remaining medium through which western ideals and culture can be introduced into Asia. This may be so; but then, unfortunately, their fight will be first of all against the great Nordic Kurds!

We cannot follow in detail the reconstruction of the history of the European races, which contains some material that is substantiated by archæological evidence, but which is mainly built up on assumptions, that have been selected, as it would seem, solely because, if true, they might demonstrate the superiority of the northwest European type. The vast amount of fanciful reconstruction indicated in these pages may best be seen from the maps accompanying the book. The first of these is called "Maximum Expansion of Alpines with Bronze Culture—3000-1800 B.C. (generalized scheme)." The generalization means the hypothesis which suits the author. The same is true of the second map, "Expansion of the Pre-Teutonic Nordics, 1800-100 B.C." A third map illustrates the expansion of the Teutonic Nordics and Slavic Alpines, 100 B.C.—A.D. 100; and the last one shows the present distribution of these types. All of them present to a certain point general movements, but they are entirely fanciful in their details.

The book obviously has not been written for the purpose of setting forth scientifically well founded data on which to base a theory, but its object is to show that democratic institutions and the arrival of immigrants of non-northwest-European type are a danger to the welfare of the American people. I may quote from the first chapter, "Race and Democracy":

"In America we have nearly succeeded in destroying the privilege of birth; that is, the intellectual and moral advantage a man of good stock brings into the world with him. We are now engaged in destroying the privilege of wealth; that is, the reward of successful intelligence and industry; and in some quarters there is developing a tendency to attack the privilege of intellect and to deprive a man of the advantages of an early and thorough education. Simplified spelling is a step in this direction." (p. 6.)

"We Americans must realize that the altruistic ideals which have controlled our social development during the past century, and the maudlin sentimentalism that has made America 'an asylum for the oppressed,' are sweeping the nation toward a racial abyss." (p. 228.)

It is owing to this purpose, that, in every case in which a nation has suffered by war or other misfortunes, the author makes it appear that the following period of depression was due to loss of blond elements. He feels compelled, however, although with poor grace, to grant to the Mediterranean race ability in artistic activities.

In the chapters devoted to the discussion of Aryan languages, the author stands entirely on the antiquated standpoint of those philosophers who were primarily concerned with the cultural values of languages. He still adheres to the exploded notion that the morphological basis of Aryan languages was fundamentally distinct in value from that of other languages, and that Aryan is the one "synthetic" language *par excellence*. Even the most superficial knowledge of other linguistic groups proves that this

## A Recent Letter from Jane Austen

My dear Cassandra:—

I am forwarding you by this post a little book\* on which I am extremely anxious to hear your opinion. I shall hope to receive so long and minute an account of every particular of your feeling in regard to it, that I shall be tired of reading it.

For I know how great importance you attach to the subject of woman's independence and how eager you are to discover a method whereby it can be effected. You have been most forbearing with me and my many doubts as to whether women should be burdened with the perplexities of government.

I recall that in our last conversation you went so far as to share the opinion of those who hold that the United States' Constitution should be amended to include women.

As with many of what I am pleased to call your irrational ideas, I have discovered more enlivening responses since we parted than I could present at the time. I will not delay to set them forth here, for Mister Tucker has expressed the reason against your proposal with far more meaning than could my feeble pen. Read it and remember, my dear sister, that no one is counted really wise who does not know that there is another side to the question on which he has formed an opinion, (or had it formed for him).

I am not surprised that you did not find my last letter very full of matter, and I wish this may not have the same deficiency; but we are doing nothing ourselves to write about and I am therefore quite dependent on my reading and my wits. Fare you well.

Yours very affectionately,

J. Austen.

Miss Austen, Edward Austen's, Esq.

Gomersham Park, Faversham, Kent.

P. S.—I enclose the feeling of two others regarding Mister Tucker's book—

"Many interesting side-lights on constitutional history are given in the course of the study."—*Springfield Republican*.

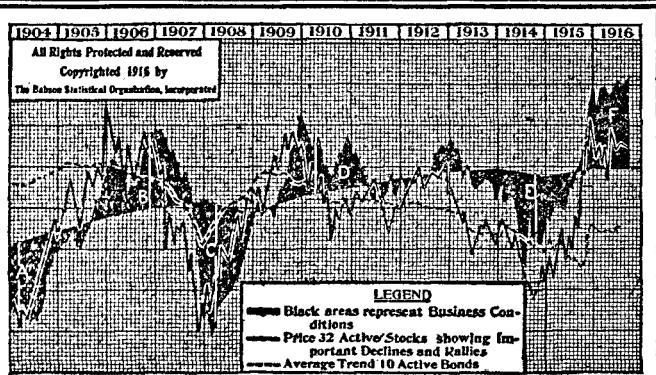
"Mr. Tucker speaks with no uncertain voice and we wish that this volume could be put in the hands of every voter in the United States."—*Virginia Law Register*.

\*WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE BY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. By H. St. George Tucker. \$1.35 net, postpaid.

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is not the case. With this the whole discussion of what race was responsible for the origin of the great Aryan language becomes meaningless.

It is necessary to state emphatically against the tendency of this book, that nobody has so far succeeded in proving racial superiority, and certainly nothing like the superiority of one European type over another one; that the whole formulation of the problem as a struggle between different races is misleading; and that if we were to follow purely rational eugenic methods, which fortunately we cannot do, we should have to select our best endowed individuals from the most divergent types, and many of the scions of North-European nobility who do conform with Mr. Grant's racial requirements would have to be removed from our society on account of their degeneracy. That kind of a race aristocracy of which Mr. Grant is dreaming is unreal, and has occurred only in those cases in which a people of pronounced local type have conquered another people of distinct type.

## FRANZ BOAS.

## Recent Publications

*With the Russian Wounded*, by Tatiana Alexinsky.  
Translated by Gilbert Cannan. London: T. Fisher  
Unwin. 2/6.

THE author is the wife of Gregor Alexinsky, who played so revolutionary a rôle in the Second Duma that he was exiled to Paris. On the outbreak of the war, Mrs. Alexinsky, who shares her husband's internationalist hopes, went to Russia primarily to discover if it really was a people's war. Several months as a nurse in a hospital train finally destroyed her early scepticism. "All wars are not the same," her patients would say to her, "but ours is a just war." Other ideas, however, received confirmation. There was a touching, dull wonder at the stupidity of a world which made wars necessary—even the most ignorant peasants expressed that. There was also a friendliness towards the prisoners—especially the Austrians—which put to shame the safe belligerency of the civilian stay-at-homes. And if, in spite of this, there was likewise a determination to fight this war "to a finish," it was only because the men believed it was the one sure way to end future conflicts. This high faith or illusion—if illusion it be—seems to keep up the morale of the soldiers when all other appeals fail; the tragedy is, that all share in the belief, Germans as fervidly as others. In their worst agony comes the thought, "I am enduring this that my children and my children's children may not." They must believe. "Never, as I worked all day and all night, did I hear a single groan, a single cry; but there were several men who, with their heads pressed hard against the wall, lost consciousness and sank down on to the floor." To realize how keenly the soldiers are convinced that their suffering has a mightier purpose than its own discipline of grief transforms what might seem mere animal stoicism into something very like conscious self-sacrifice. A sketchy, vivid book, which many feminists may read with something of a shock. For if the fact that hundreds of women are fighting in the first-line trenches held by the Russian army does not of itself surprise them, certainly the calm, every-day tone with which Mrs. Alexinsky speaks of it will—"among them we saw four women in military uniforms. One was a pretty girl